

DRAFT MINUTES

Cranford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Memorial Hall on Thursday 29th September 2022

Present: Cllr S Pickard, Cllr A Gorton, Cllr S Holford, Cllr T Martin

Pat Bird (Clerk)

Cllr M Rowley (Unitary Councillor)

22/047 Apologies were received from Cllr I Jones (personal circumstances), Cllr N Bradley (personal circumstances), Cllr F Gallagher (work commitment). Each set of apologies were approved.

22/048 It was **RESOLVED** that that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting

22/049 Matters arising

22/029 – Clerk has received no further updates regarding the Kettering Energy Park, despite emailing Matthew Thomas of Michael Sparks Associates

22/033 – Clerk has had telephone conversation with Cllr N Bradley to progress the project to ensure the Parish Council meetings are inclusive to those with hearing impairments. A report is to be presented at the next Parish Council meeting

22/035 – Cllr Rowley reported that Richard Marlow had said that the protected view would not be affected as the height of the fencing used to repair the wall in St Andrews Lane is the same height as the wall itself

22/037 – Clerk has made initial enquiries regarding a Council payment card. A report is to be presented at the next Parish Council meeting

22/038 - £137.21 has been paid to Cranford Memorial Hall to support the village's events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

22/043 – A short piece of pedestrian rail has been installed to prevent accidental access down to the Brook from the bridge at Duck End

22/044 – The NCALC VAT course met the needs of the Clerk and the Clerk will review all invoices to ensure all eligible amounts are claimed by the Parish Council

22/050 Interests

No interests were declared

Public Participation

22/051 One piece of correspondence was received regarding the Kettering Energy Park proposal for a solar energy park, energy storage and cold store. A response has been sent to the resident outlining the

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status of the proposal, i.e. the draft masterplan is due to be released later this year for public consultation, no dates for planning applications have been communicated, a website is due to be launched regarding the Energy Park, and as yet no decisions have been made by the Parish Council. Two pieces of correspondence were received regarding the wall in St Andrew's Lane and these were both, with the residents' permission, forwarded to Cllr Rowley to respond.

One piece of correspondence was received regarding a motorcyclist riding along the high level footpath. Northamptonshire Highways previously confirmed that the high level footpath is part of the publicly maintained highway, therefore the Parish Council's enforcement rights are limited. The Councillors felt that any public nuisance issues should be reported to the police.

One complaint was received regarding the loud noise from Cranford Hall during the late evening of 20th August. The Clerk has not received any further noise complaints concerning Cranford Hall.

22/052 Cllr Rowley reported that from April 2023, NNC will be offering an optional garden waste collection service at a cost of £40 for residents across North Northamptonshire.

Cllr Rowley had received a complaint from a local business regarding the road closure signs which were recently placed at the entrance to Thrapston Road near the A14 junction. Although a section of the road was closed, it was beyond the village boundary, so the road closure signs were misleading. Whilst residents may have benefitted from the reduced traffic entering Cranford, the local business suffered from this. Cllr Rowley raised this issue with Northamptonshire Highways.

Finance Matters

22/053 Cllr S Holford confirmed that he will undertake the Internal Control function and report to the next meeting.

22/054 It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance Report dated 24th September 2022 be noted, the two payments paid and the payments due, be approved

Payments paid			
To	For	Amount (£)	Legislation
Cranford Memorial Hall	Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations	137.21	Local Government Act 1972 s.137
Information Commissioner's Office	ICO registration renewal	35.00	Data Protection Act 2018
Payments due			
To	For	Amount (£)	Legislation
PM Bird (Clerk)	September Salary (due 30th September)	291.99	Local Government Act 1972 s.112
PM Bird (Clerk)	October Salary (due 31st October)	291.99	Local Government Act 1972 s.112
PM Bird (Clerk)	Reimbursement for mobile phone top up, floral tribute, anti virus software renewal	41.23	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
Community Heartbeat - inv 13855	Spare Defibrillator pads	60.00	Public Health Act 1936 s.234

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NCALC - inv 2257	Vat for unregistered councils (VAT 126) course - Clerk	36.00	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
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22/055 With the Clerk having been appointed as the Clerk to Grafton Underwood Parish Council with effect from 1st September, the Clerk prepared a report proposing the amount that Grafton Underwood Parish Council should be asked to contribute towards the Clerk's administration costs covering the laptop, printer, mobile phone, annual renewal of computer software licences, consumables, courses, the CiLCA course, Arnold-Baker book Local Council Administration, and memberships. Having considered the Clerk's report, it was **RESOLVED** that the report be approved and that the report be presented to Grafton Underwood Parish Council for its approval enabling effective use of resources for both Parish Councils and effective use of the Clerk's time

Planning Matters

22/056 Having discussed planning application [NK/2022/0578](#) – Full Planning Permission, 10 Rectory Hill, Cranford for the erection of a garden room, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objections to this.

22/057 Having discussed the Clerk's proposed letter to George Candler, Executive Director of Economy and Place at NNC regarding the application of planning policies on planning decisions in Cranford, it was **RESOLVED** that the letter be approved and that the Clerk sends this to George Candler and also to Cllr Rowley

Governance Matters

22/058 It was **RESOLVED** that the Council continue as part of the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointment (SAAA) sector led auditor appointment regime for the appointment of an external auditor for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027

Village Matters

22/059 Having discussed the Village Maintenance Programme, it was **RESOLVED** that a maintenance programme along Grafton Road should be instigated. This would start from the village gates at the top of Rectory Hill, clearing around the speed advisory sign, getting the light repaired, getting the tree vegetation cut back, resetting the sign for the Pocket Park, cleaning / repairing the notice board, relocating the litter bin from next to the seat outside the Memorial Hall to next to the notice board, clearing the overgrown vegetation near the Millennium Bridge, re-painting the Millennium Bridge, getting the vegetation on the high level path cut back to the boundary, and relocating the litter bin from next to the seat on the high level path to near the Millennium Bridge

22/060 As Cllr Gallagher was unable to attend the meeting, the update regarding the speed signs was deferred to the next meeting.

22/061 The Chairman reported that the events in Cranford to mark the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II had gone pretty smoothly with close cooperation with St John's Church and the Village Hall.

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The Chairman wishes to explore the options of the Queen's Green Canopy in Cranford with possibly planting three royal oak trees, one to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, one to remember HM Queen Elizabeth II and one to mark the new King. The Clerk is attending a Queen's Green Canopy session on October 11th to learn more.

Following the unsuccessful Community Grant fund application, the Chairman suggested that new quotes for kissing gates were obtained for consideration by the Parish Council how to proceed with this project

- 22/062** The Clerk reported that the Parish Council website had been constantly updated following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II but other communication channels, such as Together magazine, Facebook, also need to be explored and utilised to highlight what the Parish Council is doing or has done. The Clerk regularly uses Cranford Community News to promote pages on the Parish Council's website.

The Clerk will be attending the NCALC AGM on 1st October

Other matters

- 22/063** The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 24th November starting at 7pm when setting the budget for 2023/2024 will be an agenda item

- 22/064** The meeting closed at 20:45

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